



Minutes

ACCESS ABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 19, 2015 3:00 p.m.,
Committee Room #2

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Patrick Johnstone	Chair
Karla Olson	Community
Marion Orser	Community
Janet Taylor	Community
Colleen Vogler	Community
Michael Wilson	Community

NON-VOTING MEMBERS REGRETS:

Ron Jones	Special Advisor
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VOTING MEMBER REGRETS:

Anne Bélanger	Community
Matt Brito	Community
Mary Varga	Community

STAFF:

Jerry Behl	Transportation Engineer, Engineering Services
Joan Burgess	Manager, Human Resources
Jason Haight	Manager, Business Ops Parks, Culture and Recreation
Lisa Leblanc	Manager, Transportation, Engineering Services
Eugene Wat	Manager, Infrastructure Planning, Engineering Services
Lynn Roxburgh	Planner, Development Services
Terry Dunlop	Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m.

PROCEDURAL NOTE

Quorum and Agenda Variation

The meeting lacked quorum; however, the Chair gave leave to commence with presentations pending the later arrival of one more committee member.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Official Community Plan Review Process – Lynn Roxburgh

Lynn commenced with her presentation (see attached).

3:17 p.m. Janet Taylor arrived at the meeting (quorum obtained)

Next steps include further workshops and conversations in various communities throughout the City. It is hoped to have the draft OCP framework ready by spring 2016.

Committee members were invited to provide additional feedback by emailing Lynn directly at lroxburgh@newwestcity.ca or through the City's website at:

http://www.newwestcity.ca/business/planning_development/official-community-plan before a final draft is presented.

Members discussed:

- Regarding Transit & Access, there appears to be no mention of “people” in the statement. Also, there should be acknowledgment of pedestrians – those who use forms of mobility other than transit.
- The current OCP does not fully address accessibility issues; these need to be clearly stated in the new OCP.
- Include wording about safety and street lighting issues.
- On the UBC campus, there are push button direction/navigation assistance kiosks that are especially helpful for persons with dementia who might need assistance. Perhaps this idea could be explored for possible future application in New Westminster.

3:35 p.m. Lynn Roxburgh departed the meeting.

PROCEDURAL NOTE:

Upon achievement of quorum during the previous item, the Chair resumed with agenda items as listed.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

1.1 Signage for Persons with Dementia – Karla Olson

This item is discussed under New Business, Item 5.5

1.2 Adoption of the November 19, 2015 Agenda – Committee

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agenda of the Access Ability Advisory Committee held on November 19, 2015 be received and adopted, as amended.

CARRIED

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of June 11, 2015 - Committee

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the Access Ability Advisory Committee held on June 11, 2015 be received and adopted.

CARRIED

3.0 PRESENTATIONS (resumed)

3.2 Open Data (Wheelchair Ramps) – Eugene Wat

Eugene informed the Committee that Open Data is a Beta template that has been developed to provide the City with, among other things, a log of all ramps in the municipality. It is comprised of a GIS plotted map form, superimposed over a Google map and it enables users to zoom into various locations. Currently, there are 2,800 ramps throughout the City and over the years, Council has increased the allocation to \$125,000 for the addition and improvement of ramp sites. As an additional 400 locations have been identified, it will be necessary to increase the annual allocation to \$200,000 in order to meet the Mayor's Transportation Task Force goal of a fully accessible city by the end of 2018.

Members discussed:

- Columbia Street, across from Anvil Centre, is scheduled for redevelopment and improvement so the existing, unusable ramps will be taken care of at that time. If there is an immediate hazard, it will be addressed.
- Responding to a suggestion that sidewalk cuts be installed on both sides of streets rather than on corners, staff noted that the official

standard is for 45 degree angle (corner) cuts only, but there are certain areas where this is not suitable. The City is moving towards the two cut option, especially on main streets and busier corridors.

- The priority for the next three years is to focus on intersections where there are not curb cuts at all; other, badly designed cuts would be dealt with subsequently.
- If possible, the map should illustrate what is coming to various intersections (with dates) and show where sub-optimal cuts exist. Staff will take this suggestion under advisement to discuss with data experts.
- Committee members were encouraged to contact staff with information on specific sites that can be included in the annual program. Locations of particular concern can be adjusted throughout the year.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 "Can Do" Policy Update – Joan Burgess, Human Resources

Joan Burgess updated on the proposed Action Plan for an Active Access Policy, noting that there is a need to achieve momentum on this dated policy. Committee comment was requested in order to revise and update the policy for submission to Council. A significant component relates to consultation regarding responsibilities and identifying needs relative to what can actually be accomplished. Regarding the Canada Games Pool, there is a need to think creatively as to what can be done while waiting for a new facility. Work is underway on areas such as "best practices" and the Committee was asked to provide input and guidance on the consultative process, particularly any unique needs and issues not already addressed. Committee feedback will be provided to staff who will be trained on the consultative aspects of responding to customers.

Members discussed:

- There is a need for new and/or improved signage; e.g. the Canada Games Pool, where there is currently no signage, indicating benches are for people with disabilities.
- Larger staff name tags with bolder type and prompts such as "*Ask Me for Help*" are recommended and may encourage people with dementia to use the phone, maps, etc.
- As the City population ages, signage in places where there are lineups could encourage others to give priority for those who cannot stand, etc.
- Staff acknowledged that we need to have conversations on the "we can do that" approach and encourage creative thinking when it comes to assisting people with disabilities.
- In summary, there needs to be an emphasis on providing feedback when questions are asked and we should look at how other municipalities have dealt with similar issues. Further thoughts and feedback may be provided by e-mail to: jburgess@newwestcity.ca

3:45 p.m. Joan departed the meeting.

4.2 Fourth Street Planter Issue Update Requested – Janet Taylor/Eugene Wat

Staff reviewed slides of a utility pole located in the middle of the sidewalk at Carnarvon Street & 4th Street which obstructs the use of the nearby wheelchair ramp. The sidewalk is also narrowed where the entire bulge is taken up with the planter which was installed by the adjacent property owner.

Members discussed:

- Replacing the grassed area of the bulge with concrete would allow wheelchairs to navigate around the obstruction.
- It may be possible to install a temporary rubber matting surface, if winter weather conditions do not permit pouring of concrete.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Uptown and Downtown Wheelability Study Progress Update Requested – Marion Orser/Eugene Wat

Marion requested an update on the status of the study which was undertaken approximately two years ago.

Staff noted the initiative was undertaken two years ago and was funded for about eight months as a pilot program with the purpose being to raise awareness and identify curb letdowns at key intersections. The program provided maps that illustrated challenging areas and grades and was intended to ensure mobility needs were being accommodated and that people would be able to utilize the information to select appropriate routes for improvement. Specific location issues should be addressed to Engineering Operations staff if problems remain.

Members discussed:

- With respect to the old broken and chipped bricks near the library, the City is moving to install smoother and, possibly decorative, concrete finishes.
- Relative to specific location issues, there was reference to forthcoming agenda item 5.3 (Bosa Development at Belmont Street and 5th Avenue) where the main driveway from 7th Street into the parking area is at such a steep angle, wheelchairs are in danger or tilting over. A remedy might be to locate the steepest part of the access on the driveway rather than the sidewalk.
- Councillor Johnstone noted that the Servicing Agreement between the City and the developer includes a book of standards, which contains a driveway letdown condition. He suggested possible consideration of

amendments to the design standards and requested staff to address this issue as a future agenda item.

5.2 Request for Wheelchair Ramp at 625 Fifth Avenue Medical Building – Marion Orser

Marion proposed consideration of constructing a curb letdown beside the two handicapped parking spots in front of the Fifth Avenue Medical Building. Currently, when accessing a handicapped vehicle ramp from the rear, users are required to be wheeled down the road to access the curb cut located right at the intersection of Fifth Avenue and Seventh Street.

Members discussed:

- Staff will review the matter and report back with possible options for consideration.

4:40 p.m. At this time, Lisa Leblanc, the City's new Manager of Transportation arrived at the meeting and was formally introduced to the Committee by Councillor Johnstone.

Lisa stated that she had been in the position of Manager of Transportation for two months and appreciated the work of the Committee. She noted her keen interest in accessibility issues and her desire to implement a disability awareness education program for staff.

5.3 Steep Driveway Slopes at Bosa Development at Belmont Street and Fifth Avenue – Marion Orser

This item was discussed under New Business, Item 5.1.

5.4 Pedestrian-Controlled Light at 4th Street and Agnes Street (General Concerns) – Janet Taylor

Activation of the push button controlling the newly installed flash signal at 4th and Agnes Streets requires users to walk a considerable distance downhill to access the control. By the time of return to the designated crosswalk, the flashing cycle has ended. Consequently, many people appear to be opting to not use the push button and simply cross the street without activating the control. This presents an unnecessary hazard. Discussion of potential solutions is ongoing with staff.

5.5 Signage for Persons with Dementia – Karla Olson

Karla recommended consideration of improved signage to assist persons with dementia. Sufferers experience memory difficulties, particularly when they are tired. Elevated, colored signage to indicate benches, including wayfinding info to help with orientation within local areas, i.e. City Hall, libraries, the Fraser River, etc. would be helpful.

Coloured finishes to benches would help with orientation, especially in level areas such as around the library and City Hall. Installation of eye level maps also help people orient themselves.

Members discussed:

- Staff was requested to consider problems related to potential misuse of public benches (e.g., placement of seat dividers to discourage use for sleeping, installation of strong lighting, etc.) This would be an alternative to outright removal of benches.
- Investigate viability of overnight, lockable fold-up benches. This might be an option for businesses or private building owners.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Summary of Summer Walkabout to Plaza 88 and Quayside Area – Councillor Patrick Johnstone

Councillor Johnstone reviewed illustrations of sites visited during the summer walkabout of the Plaza 88 and Quayside areas. It was suggested that staff develop an Action List where issues would be recorded and remain until resolved. This would become a standing agenda item and avoid the necessity of bringing forward separate status reports at each meeting. The List would note issues identified and enable priorities to be established. Priority items could then be elevated to Council for consideration.

Members discussed:

- All committee members present agreed to implementation of an Action List as a standing agenda item.
- The Fourth Street planter issue, as addressed in item 4.2, and the location of the push button for the pedestrian-controlled light at 4th Street and Agnes Street as discussed in item 5.4 should be included in the Status List.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

8.0 NEXT MEETING DATE

TBA

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Original Signed

Councillor Patrick Johnstone
CHAIR

Original Signed

Terry Dunlop
RECORDING SECRETARY

AAAC – November 19, 2015 Meeting

Item 3.1

**Official Community Plan Review Process
- Lynn Roxburgh**

OUR CITY 2041 Official Community Plan Review

Lynn Roxburgh
Development Services

November 19, 2015


NEW WESTMINSTER

OUR CITY 2041 Official Community Plan Review

An Official Community Plan (OCP) is a municipality's statement of its **long-term vision for the future**. It describes the kind of community that the municipality wishes to evolve into.

The revised OCP will **provide a renewed vision** for New Westminster to the year 2041. Input from the community will help shape the OCP and the future of OUR CITY.



OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN REVIEW

**WE ARE
HERE**



2014	WINTER 2015	SUMMER 2015	2016
Step One and Two Background Research and Public Launch	Step Two Vision and Goals	Step Three Policies and Land Use Scenarios	Step Four OCP Draft Plan



Policy Areas

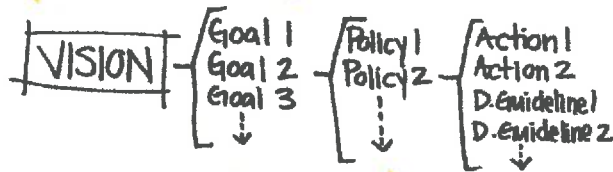
1. Community and Individual Well Being
2. Culture
3. Economy and Employment
4. Energy and Emissions
5. Environment and Natural Areas
6. Food
7. Hazards
8. Health
9. Heritage
10. Housing
11. Parks and Recreation
12. Public Realm and Urban Design
13. Transportation and Accessibility
14. Utilities



Policy Framework

The vision is a vivid description of the community's aspirations for the future of the community. It provides a clear, yet brief direction for the plan. It summarizes community ideals as expressed by community who have taken an interest during the public consultation process.

The goals are broad statements describing the results that the plan would seek to achieve in relation to the policy areas. They address the community's priorities, as expressed by residents during the public consultation process.



The policies describe specific categories of actions needed to achieve the desired results of the goal.

Draft Vision

New Westminster is a caring, healthy and livable city, where community members feel connected to the built and natural environments and to each other, and where investment, growth and development contribute to a high quality of life for all. Throughout the city a variety of services and employment opportunities are connected by vibrant public spaces that are easily accessible by foot, wheels and transit. Each neighbourhood has a unique character that includes buildings and open spaces with high quality urban design that are well integrated with New Westminster's heritage assets, help reduce environmental impact and contribute to the city's cultural identity.

Revised Draft Vision?

New Westminster is a caring, healthy and livable city, where community members feel connected to the built and natural environments and to each other, and where investment, growth and development contribute to a high quality of life for all. ~~Throughout the city a variety of services and employment opportunities are~~ The City is well connected by vibrant public spaces that are and is easily accessible by foot, wheels and transit. Each neighbourhood has a unique character and cultural identity and exhibits a high quality of urban design that is well integrated with the city's heritage assets. ~~that includes buildings and open spaces with high quality urban design, that are well integrated with New Westminster's heritage assets, help reduce environmental impact and contribute to the city's cultural identity.~~

Draft Goal: Transportation and Accessibility

New Westminster's multi-modal transportation system supports a compact, sustainable, resilient community, which is an important economic hub within the region.

What are the top things the City needs to do to make this statement true in 2041?

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What are the top things the City needs to do to make this statement true in 2041?

- Increase the attractiveness of areas designated for walking and cycling (e.g., sidewalks and pathways).
- Work with Transit authorities and other jurisdictions to increase the attractiveness of public transit for users.

Next Steps

Vision Statement & Draft Goals – SUMMER 2015

- We will be using feedback to refine the draft vision and goals.

OUR CITY Workshop: A Conversation on Housing – NOW

- Saturday, November 21, 9am-noon
Sapperton Pensioners Hall - 318 Keary Street
- Saturday, November 28, 9am-noon
Connaught Heights School - 2201 London Street

Draft OCP Framework – SPRING 2016

- Revised Transportation and Accessibility goals, draft policies and maps will be presented to committee.



A Growing City + Housing Choice

The City's Urban Development Forecast anticipates that New Westminster will grow to almost 104,000 people by 2041. This means approximately 34,000 new residents (**16,500 new homes**) and **700,000 square feet of new commercial** businesses over the next 26 years. We will be exploring questions such as:

- How can growth (i.e. new housing and commercial businesses) appropriately fit into each neighbourhood and the overall city?
- Who are we providing housing for?
- What type of housing do they need?
- How does the Master Transportation Plan inform the land use plan?



Thank You.

Questions? Comments.

For more information about the OUR CITY process:
www.newwestcity.ca/ourcity

 /New Westminster

 @NewWestPlanning

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